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EXCISE 761.00(W)/6-261

PRIORITY

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy, Moscow

DESP. NO. 818

DATE June 2, 1961

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

S/IL-1, NEA-4, FE-4, AF-5, ARA-5

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	INR-10	INFO REP-1, RM/R-2, ICA-11, CU-5, EUR-5, S/P-1, D-4, B/CEA-1, S/S-1
	REC'D 6/7	OTHER USIA-11, OSD-2, ARMY-35, NAVY-20, AIR-15, NSA-4, CIA-16

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 22 NSC-1, LAB-2

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REPORTER

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EXTERNAL-POLITICAL

1. US-Soviet Relations. As the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting drew nearer the Soviet press continued to avoid direct comment as to the outcome. As before, world press sources were cited to convey wide hopes for a change for the better in the international climate, and to suggest the futility of the President's taking a "from-positions-of-strength" line. The press republished a Lippmann column largely devoted to the idea of change in the correlation of forces to Soviet advantage--a favorite Soviet theme. There was no direct criticism of the President, although press reports of the State of the Union message stressing the request for additional military and space expenditures had critical overtones. Preliminary press accounts of the Kennedy-de Gaulle meeting cited Western press publication of NATO "plans for military attack on the GDR" as an illustration of efforts being undertaken to prevent useful discussion at Vienna.

The speaker at a Moscow public lecture sought to rationalize the Vienna meeting with other Soviet foreign policy postures for his audience. He stressed the enormous importance of the meeting and the crucial role of US-Soviet relations in the development of the international situation. The overall impression he conveyed was that the meeting would be a success and that relations between the two countries would return to the pre-U2 atmosphere. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Geneva Conference on Laos. During the recess of the Geneva Conference last week the Soviet press pursued a number of themes which, while not suggesting Soviet pessimism regarding the possibilities of negotiated settlement with the West on Laos, conveyed an impression the Western powers, particularly the US, were leaving no stones unturned to delay and if possible to sabotage agreement. The Soviet press accused the Western delegations of avoiding the submission of concrete proposals and dodging discussion of those made by the Soviet Union. It also criticized the US for advancing what it described as a vague new concept of neutrality which, in providing for international regulatory machinery, was in effect seeking to provide a pretext for further interference in Laotian internal affairs.

The press alluded to an absence of an effective cease-fire in Laos by reporting Pathet Lao allegations concerning violations on the part of Boun-Oum-Phoumi forces, strident statements of Pathet Lao determination to defend the "liberated" areas and warnings that responsibility for consequences lay entirely with the other side.

The DRV appeal to the Geneva co-chairman to take action against the alleged US violations of the 1954 agreements was soft-pedaled by the Soviet press and placed in the context of Vice President Johnson's Far Eastern trip rather than the current Geneva Conference on Laos. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Kosygin Visit to North Korea. Soviet Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kosygin left for North Korea with little warning to the public (visit was announced May 26) on May 29. The recent coup in South Korea undoubtedly was an incentive for the Soviets to make their presence felt in

Northeast Asia, to draw attention to North Korean re-unification schemes, and to contrast professed Soviet desire for peaceful political solutions with alleged US reliance on military alliances and reactionary political elements. It is possible also that Kosygin's visit is intended to serve as a substitute for the Khrushchev trip scheduled last fall and then postponed indefinitely. The visit by Kosygin may seem to the Soviets as striking the right balance between exploiting opportunities for strengthening Soviet influence in North Korea and stirring up old troubles with Peiping, to which a Khrushchev visit to that area might contribute.

The speeches delivered by Kosygin after his arrival in Pyongyang, texts of which have been carried in Pravda, stress the importance of developing economic production in North Korea to attract South Koreans toward re-unification with the north, and also contained passages implying that re-unification was not an immediate prospect but required patience and understanding of Soviet global responsibilities. Kosygin's speech and those of North Korean leaders also suggested the possibility of divergent attitudes within the bloc regarding the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting in Vienna. Kosygin's treatment of the coming event indicated that those who do not approve of the meeting were in error on the correct methods to conduct the "peace" struggle. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Africa. The most notable feature of Somali Premier Abdirascid's Soviet visit reported in the press was his speech at a May 25 Kremlin luncheon, in which he went to remarkable lengths in identifying his country with Soviet political concepts. Abdirascid absolved the USSR from selfish motives in its foreign aid program, claimed that Africa stands with the Socialist countries, pleaded Soviet forgiveness for African countries found voting with "the imperialists" in international organizations, and inferred that African countries in the British Commonwealth and French Community are not politically independent. Presumably Abdirascid hoped to extract generous aid from his hosts. A speech by Mikoyan at a May 31 reception referred to Soviet readiness to help Somalia in a number of fields--training of personnel, development of health services and agriculture, industrial projects--but there was no indication of the amount of aid involved.

The May 27 Soviet Government statement on Angola was clearly intended to implicate the US and NATO in Portuguese actions there, and put the USSR on the side of African countries calling for urgent international action. The statement seemed likely to be the prelude to a Soviet call for a Security Council meeting. However, in the week following the statement, the Soviet press has not made a major issue of Angola, which suggests that the intention may be to let the African countries themselves take the lead for the moment in pressing for international action.

The Soviet press has portrayed the Casablanca conference of African labor unions as a resounding defeat for the ICFTU and those African leaders, notably Tom Mboya (Kenya), Talili (Tunisia), and S yer (Liberia), opposed to the formation of an all-African federation of labor unions whose members would be unable to belong to international labor organizations. Mboya was the subject of critical comment in a Trud (May 26) article which charged that he was "prepared to cooperate with foreign monopolies and the colonialists." (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. President Sukarno's Forthcoming Visit. The press announced that President Sukarno will arrive in Moscow on June 5. Meanwhile, little news has been published about the whereabouts and activities of Indonesian Party Leader Aidit, who apparently has not yet left the Soviet Union. An Indonesian Embassy source has informed the Embassy that his Embassy believes Aidit will have left the USSR before Sukarno's arrival to avoid possible embarrassment. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. [redacted]

7. Soviet-UAR Relations. On May 31 Pravda published an "Observer" article which sharply attacked two prominent Egyptian papers (Al-Ahram and Al-Musawar) and their editors for "anti-Soviet slanders." The Pravda article complained "socialism" in the UAR as described in Al-Ahram is identical with capitalism--a society where exploiters rule and progressive people languish in jail. The Pravda article also denounced a claim put forth in Al-Musawar that the UAR policy of neutrality is full repayment for Soviet aid. Pravda insisted such a concept of trading reveals ignorance of the unselfish nature of Soviet aid. While it avoided criticism of Nasser personally--and even quoted statements putting him in a favorable light from a Soviet point of view--the article's attack on the editors' anti-Soviet attitudes was probably intended as a mark of Soviet displeasure with Nasser's current policies.

Pravda also reported without comment the announcement by the Lebanese CP that Farajallah al-Hilu died of torture in a Syrian prison. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

INTERNAL

8. Leadership. Up to the very day of his departure for Vienna, N. S. Khrushchev was active with a variety of Moscow protocol functions which included receiving the Indian Ambassador (who is leaving the USSR soon) and formalities connected with the visits of the Somali Prime Minister and a Bolivian parliamentary delegation. On the day he left Moscow (May 27), he participated with three other CC secretaries (O.V.Kuusinen, N. A. Mukhitdinov, and M. A. Suslov) in talks with a visiting Indonesian communist delegation.

Indicative of F. R. Kozlov's continuing poor health, he was the only CC secretary absent from the discussions with the Indonesian delegation. He also was the only Moscow resident CC Presidium Member not present among the well-wishers at Kiev station when Khrushchev departed for Vienna via Kiev and Czechoslovakia.

In Kiev, the entire CC Presidium of the Ukrainian Party turned out to meet Khrushchev with the exception of Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman D. S. Korotchenko who is also a CPSU Presidium Candidate Member.

N. T. Kal'chenko also was present (a fact not mentioned in the central press). In March he had been demoted from Chairman to Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers.

During two days in Kiev, Khrushchev, playing the politician, visited the hydroelectric station, laid a wreath on poet T. S. Shevchenko's monument and was photographed holding a child. In Khrushchev's absence, Moscow affairs seem to be in the hands of First Deputy Chairman A. I. Mikoyan. As is often the custom in the absence of Khrushchev, one of the two First Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers remains on hand in Moscow, while the other is absent on leave or duty. In this case, the second first deputy chairman A. N. Kosygin, left Moscow for North Korea as head of a CPSU delegation (May 29).

9. 43rd Anniversary of Border Guards Recalls Need for Vigilance. May 28, the 43rd Anniversary of Lenin's Decree "Concerning the Establishment of the Border Guards" provided an occasion for considerable publicity of Border Guard activities. Articles in the press were accompanied by pictures of clean-cut soldiers, (well armed and sometimes with dogs) tracking in border areas, desert wastes and along sea coasts. Several of the articles confirmed once again the use of volunteer peoples' border guards (e.g., Turkmenskaya Iskra and Pravda Ukrainy of May 28). Press articles also recalled heroism against the German invaders, and various border incidents were recounted in which capture of illegal border crossers had resulted from "vigilance." Sometimes the appeal to vigilance had an anti-US twise. For example, Turkmenskaya Iskra of May 28 states that "aggressive forces in the USA, France and England are breathing new life into the breeding grounds of war in Central Europe and in the Far East, are creating new outposts of war in Africa and Asia have sent and are attempting to send into our country and into the countries of the socialist camp spies, saboteurs and terrorists."

While praising the local assistance given the Border Guards by units of voluntary peoples' guards (druzhini) the press articles often emphasized the need for strengthening ties of friendship between the local population and border guards, suggesting that the Border Guards do not always obtain the degree of local cooperation felt desirable by the regime. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

10. Three Secretaries in the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee Shift. The regional press provides a slightly different version and a little more detail on the May 29 Moldavian Party Plenum (attended by Chief of the CC CPSU Section on Party Organs for Union Republics V. N. Titov) than had been published in the abbreviated Pravda account on May 30. (Sovetskaya Moldavia, May 30.) In addition to promoting Second Secretary I. I. Bodyul to First Secretary (replacing Z. T. Serdyuk who was released "in connection with a summons to other leading party work"), the plenum released M. V. Skurtul as a Central Committee Secretary. Although the Pravda account added that CPSU CC member Serdyuk's "summons" to Party work came from the Central Committee of the CPSU it failed to mention Skurtul's release as a secretary (he was appointed Moldavian Minister of Agricultural Procurement on March 25).

The Plenum confirmed the appointment of S. D. Mogilat to replace the Editor of the Moldavian Central Committee paper Sovetskaya Moldavia (A.A. Golubitskiy) who is transferred to other work. In addition, the Plenum confirmed one F. D. Berezovikov as Chief of the Moldavian CC Section on Construction and Building Materials and, as reported, set September 27 as the date for the next regular party congress (the 10th). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

11. First Secretary Neglected in Report of Tselinnyy Kray Plenum. Reporting on agricultural matters discussed at a plenum of the Tselinnyy Kray Party Committee, Pravda of May 29 noted a speech by former USSR Minister of Agriculture V. V. Matskevich (now the leading government figure of the kray and a member of the Kray Party Bureau). Pravda also reported the election at the plenum of two Kray secretaries, but failed to report attendance of T. I. Sokolov who, as Kray First Secretary, occupies a more influential position than Matskevich and whose absence from a plenum dealing with personnel matters would be unusual.

On the other hand, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda of May 28 confirmed Sokolov's presence by mentioning that he spoke at the plenum. It seems possible that Pravda's failure to report Sokolov's presence could be connected with a desire to play up Matskevich's responsibility for affairs of the virgin lands. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

MILITARY

12. AIR. Paris dateline TASS despatch quoted in Red Star announces the submission of data concerning the recent record-breaking flight by Major Gagarin to the FAI. The material was forwarded by the Central Aeroclub of the USSR named after V. P. Chkalov. According to the press release, the point of departure was the cosmic aerodrom Baykonur (47N 65E). Point of descent was the neighborhood of the Village of Shelovka, Saratov Oblast (about 30 km SW of Engels). The space ship "VOSTOK", the release continues, was put into orbit by a cluster of 6 rockets, total horsepower rating of 20,000,000. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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